Response dated: December 24, 2007

In Reply to Non-Final Office action dated: September 24, 2007

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND claims 1, 3-5 and 7 and CANCEL claim 6 without prejudice or disclaimer in accordance with the following:

1. (Currently amended) A remotely controlled apparatus for recovering liquid from a sunken ship comprising an underwater recovery device operated underwater, a remotely operated vehicle for moving the underwater recovery device to the sunken ship, a remote controller for remotely controlling the underwater recovery device and the remotely operated vehicle, a base plate for fixing and separating the underwater recovery device to and from the sunken ship, and a transporting hose for transporting the liquid contaminant to the surface, the remotely controlled apparatus comprising: the underwater recovery device including:

a supporting plate and a supporting frame, to which a plurality of devices including a linkage, with which the underwater recovery device is coupled, are fixed; a plurality of chucking devices for fixing the underwater recovery device to the

sunken ship;

a grabber for attaching and detaching the base plate to the supporting frame;
a plurality of DTB systems for fixedly attaching the base plate to the sunken ship;

a plurality of thrusters, associated with the DTB systems, for providing a propulsive force so as to closely attach and detach the supporting frame to and from the sunken ship;

a hole cutter for drilling a hole with a desired diameter for the recovery of the liquid in the sunken ship; and

a liquid recovery device integrally formed with the hole cutter and having a pump for recovering the liquid through the hole drilled in the sunken ship.

2. (Previously Presented) The remotely controlled apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the grabber comprises a plurality of coupling protrusions protruded from a leading end of a body that is connected to a cylinder such that the coupling protrusions are spread in the radial direction by the cylinder to fix the base plate.

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3. (Currently amended) The remotely controlled apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the thruster comprises:

a main thruster, installed in the same direction as the DTB system, for generating a propulsive force for moving the underwater recovery device in the direction perpendicular to the sunken ship; and

an auxiliary thruster, installed perpendicular to the main thruster, for generating a propulsive force for moving the underwater recovery device parallel to the sunken ship (in the right and left directions).

- 4. (Currently amended) The remotely controlled apparatus as set forth in claim 43, wherein the main thruster and the auxiliary thruster are simultaneously operated to move the underwater recovery device in the diagonal direction.
- 5. (Currently amended) The remotely controlled apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the liquid recovery device is disposed in a housing to be adjacent to the hole cutter-and is integrally formed with the hole cutter.
 - 6. (Cancelled)
- 7. (Currently amended) A method for recovering the liquid in a sunken ship comprising:

a preparation step for analyzing and inspecting the determination of the validity of recovering the liquid in the tank of the sunken ship and the characteristics of the sea area where the ship is sunken, including the sub-steps of:

precisely analyzing and inspecting information about <u>a</u> sea accident and the sunken ship to estimate the possibility that the liquid contaminant such as oil remains in the sunken ship and the <u>a</u> risk of the liquid contaminant;

searching the sunken ship using a marine searching device such as a site sean sonar;

precisely-inspecting the sunken ship by divers or using a diving ship and

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examining the validity of recovering the liquid; and

establishing a plan for recovering the liquid;

an attaching step for attaching a seawater introducing base plate to the sunken ship, including the sub-steps of:

installing a navigation device and anchoring the an assisting ship on the water above the place of the sunken ship;

precisely inspecting the sunken ship (searching and selecting a position of the sunken ship to be drilled) and removing obstacles around the sunken ship;

cleaning the peripherals of the drilling position and marking the drilling position;

moving the <u>an</u> underwater recovery device attached with the seawater introducing base plate to the <u>a</u> seawater introducing position (the drilling position);

attaching the seawater introducing base plate to the sunken ship using DTB systems and drilling the sunken ship using a hole cutter; and

closing assembly holes using a shutter of the seawater introducing base plate by driving a cylinder and separating the underwater recovery device from the sunken ship to which the seawater introducing base plate 80b-is attached;

a recovery step for recovering the liquid including the sub-steps of:
mounting a liquid recovery base plate to the underwater recovery device by
raising the underwater recovery device to the water surface;

moving the underwater recovery device to the <u>a</u>liquid recovery position (the drilling position) in the same fashion;

attaching the liquid recovery base plate to the sunken ship and drilling a hole using the hole cutter; and

fixedly connecting the a liquid recovery device and a hose for recovering the liquid to the liquid recovery base plate attached to the sunken ship and the underwater recovery device and recovering and transporting the liquid from the tank of the sunken ship to an the assisting ship; and

a finishing step including the sub-steps of:

closing an assembly hole of the liquid recovery base plate when the recovery of the liquid is completed;

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separating the underwater recovery device from the liquid recovery base plate to separate the underwater recovery device from the sunken ship; and leaving the base plates on the sunken ship and surfacing the underwater recovery device and the remotely operated vehicle.